

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for establishing a correlation between a first state of a piezoelectric component having a piezoceramic element and a second state of the component, the second state of the component being generated from the first state of the component by polarization of the piezoceramic element of the component, with the following method steps:

a) providing a **first** group of components ~~each with in a the~~ first state prior to being polarized;[[,]]

b) ~~determining~~ measuring at least one first parameter ~~specific characteristic~~ of each of the components of the **first** group in the first state;[[,]]

c) polarizing the piezoceramic element of the components of the **first** group such that the components are in a second, polarized state;~~with a corresponding component of a second group resulting from each of the components of the first group and having the second state,~~

d) ~~determining at least one~~ measuring a second parameter ~~specific characteristic~~ of each of the components of the ~~second~~ group in the second, polarized state, the second parameter being different than the at least one first parameter; and

e) establishing ~~the a~~ correlation between the at least one first parameter and the second parameter by comparing the measurements of the at least one first parameter for the group of components in the first state with the measurements of the second parameter for the group of components in the second, polarized state; and by
~~comparing the specific characteristic of each of the components of the first group and the specific characteristic of the corresponding component of the second group~~

f) determining whether to accept or reject a particular component based at least on a measurement of the at least one first parameter of the particular component in the first, pre-polarization state and the established correlation.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~a number of multiple first parameters~~ of the component ~~with in~~ the first state are determined and used to establish the correlation with ~~the a single second parameter specific characteristic~~ of the component ~~with in~~ the second state.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specific characteristic of the component ~~with in~~ the first state is selected from the group consisting of: loss angle of the piezoelectric layer, insulation resistance of the piezoelectric layer, density of the piezoelectric layer, relative permittivity of the piezoelectric layer, ferroelastic behavior of the component, module of elasticity of the component, longitudinal sound velocity of the component, and~~[[or]]~~ temperature sensitivity of the capacity of the component.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a lead zirconate titanate is used as the piezoceramic element.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the at least one first parameter includes a ratio of a rhombohedral part by volume with a rhombohedral phase and a tetragonal part by volume with a tetragonal phase ~~is used as the specific characteristic of the component with the first state.~~

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~components of the first group are used~~, the first state ~~of which~~ is characterized by partial polarization of the piezoceramic element for in each component in the group instance.

7. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, wherein for the purposes of partial polarization the piezoceramic element of the components is polarized without pressure at room temperature.

8. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, wherein for the purposes of partial polarization the piezoceramic element of the components is polarized at a poling temperature that is higher than room temperature.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein for the purposes of partial polarization a mechanical compressive stress is exerted on the piezoceramic element of the components.

10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 6, wherein for the purposes of partial polarization the component is heated to above the Curie temperature of the piezoceramic element and a polarization field with a low field strength of less than 100 V/mm is applied as the component cools to room temperature.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 1, wherein **a each** piezoelectric component **is used, which** has at least one piezoelement with at least two electrode layers arranged one on top of the other and at least one piezoelectric layer, containing the piezoceramic element, arranged between the electrode layers.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 11, wherein **each piezoelectric component comprises** a multilayer actuator **is used as the piezoelectric component,** in which a number of piezoelements are arranged to form a stacked actuator body.

13. **Cancelled.**

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the quality of a component being judged based on the prediction.

15. **Cancelled.**

16. **(New)** A method according to claim 1, wherein determining whether to accept or reject the particular component under analysis includes:

measuring the at least one first parameter of the particular component;

predicting a measurement of the second parameter of the particular component based on the established correlation; and

determining whether to accept or reject the particular component based on a comparison of the predicting measurement of the second parameter with a specified tolerance range.